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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02
/116 W
----------162234Z 027142 /15
O R 162135Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3635

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1546

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MAY 16 MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTENSIVE, WEEK-END STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF MONDALE/ YOUNG MEETING UNDERSCORED: A) U.S. STRONG COMMITMENT TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN GENERAL AND SOUTH AFRICA IN PARTICULAR; B) MONDALE/VORSTER MEETING NOT VIEWED BY U.S. AS "CONFRONTATIONAL;" C) U.S. WILL RELY HEAVILY ON "ECONOMIC PRESSURE POINTS" (OPTIONS OUTLINED IN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED RANDAL WPOST STORY REFERRED TO BY OTHER PAPERS); D) RESULTS OF VIENNA MEETING MAY BE DECISIVE; E) MONDALE/ YOUNG REVIEWED AFRICAN POLICY, DISCUSS COM CON- FERENCE, YOUNG'S SOUTH AFRICA TRIP, U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MAPUTO CONFERENCE, AND FORTHCOMING MONDALE/ VORSTER MEETING.

3. CSMONITOR EDITORIAL SAYS THAT MONDALE WILL CANDIDLY
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WARN VORSTER OF SERIOUS U.S. CONCERN TOWARD SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL SITUATION AND THAT YOUNG'S TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA IS ANOTHER SIGNAL OF THIS CONCERN. MONITOR THEN ENDORSES NEW AND TOUGHER U.S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA, SAYING THAT "IMPROVEMENTS FOR BLACKS" WILL HELP BOTH "BLACKS AND WHITES IN THE LONG RUN."

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4. EVANS/NOVAK IN COLUMN ENTITLED "ANDREW YOUNG'S CLOUT" WRITE THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT WANT TO ENDANGER MONDALE/VORSTER TALKS, AND ALTHOUGH "MANY SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE YOUNG WAS BEING INTENTIONALLY PROVOCATIVE BY SNUBBING THE VORSTER GOVERNMENT IN ARRANGING HIS TRIP," THE SAG "SEPARATED THEIR VIEW OF ANDREW YOUNG FROM THEIR VIEW OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG" AND RELUCTANTLY APPROVED THE YOUNG VISIT, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MADE IT CLEAR IT DID NOT WANT YOUNG BARRED. THIS STRONG WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT SHOWS, ACCORDING TO EVANS AND NOVAK, THAT YOUNG, "FAR FROM BEING AN IGNORED EMBARRASSMENT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER," HAS "WON HIS BATTLE" WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONALS OVER AFRICAN POLICY. "THIS IS THE U.S. POLICY SHAPED BY YOUNG: KEEP BARELY CIVIL RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA IN ORDER TO SERVE AS PROTECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK MAJORITY. WHETHER THAT POSTURE MOVES THE PROUD AFRIKANNERS TO A RACIAL SETTLEMENT IS PRIVATELY DOUBTED BY OLD HANDS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

5. UNDER HEADING, " ANDREW YOUNG, THE QUIET DEIPLOMAT," DANIEL SOUTHERLAND (CSMONITOR) WRITES THERE IS "ANOTHER SIDE" TO THE CONTROVERSIAL YOUNG IF YOU "CAN BELIEVE" SOME OF THE AFRICAN SPECIALISTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHERE "GRUMBLING ABOUT THE 'ANDREW YOUNG PROBLEM' HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD." THESE OFFICIALS ARE SAY-ING, ACCORDING TO SOUTHERLAND, THAT YOUNG'S QUIET EFFORTS HAVE BEEN "RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPROVEMENTS" IN AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS, WITH
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NIGERIA BEING SINGLED OUT.

6. HENRY BRANDON WRITING IN THE LONDON TIMES SAYS THAT THE NEW TOUGH AMERICAN APPROACH TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA IS INFLUENCED "NOT ONLY BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTI-TUDE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE HISTORIC TRENDS IN AFRICA, BUT ALSO BY THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH ITS OWN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT." ABOVE ALL, BRANDON STATES CARTER IS CONCERNED "ABOUT PRESENT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICIES LEADING TO A BLOODY CIVIL WAR, WHICH WOULD BE BROUGHT BY TELEVISION INTO AMERICAN LIVING ROOMS, WITH THE PREDICTABLE EFFECTS OF RADICALIZING AMERICAN BLACKS ONCE AGAIN AND GENERATING UNWELCOME PRESSURE ON HIS AD-MINISTRATION."

7. INITIAL WIRE-SERVICE STORIES QUOTING STONEY COOKS THAT YOUNG MAY NOT GO TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF THE STRINGENT CONDITIONS (UNSPECIFIED) BEING SET BY THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT AND THAT YOUNG DID NOT WANT

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TO GO AS 'AN HONORARY WHITE OR A COLORED LEADER' BUT
'AS AN AMERICAN, AND AS THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN
AND A CABINENT OFFICER' WERE OVERTAKEN BY ANNOUNCE-
MENT BY VP MONDALE THAT TRIP WAS DEFINITELY ON.

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8. BOTH AP (SCHMEMANN) AND RANDAL (WPOST) VIEWED GHANA'S
RECEIVING YOUNG, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR CANCELLATION OF
KISSINGER'S SCHEDULED TRIP LAST YEAR, AS A SYMBOL OF
RECONCILIATION AND VISIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE RIFT BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS OVER. THE STORIES ALSO MENTIONED
YOUNG'S OFFER (DECLINED) TO MEDIATE WITH STUDENT DEMO-
STRATORS, AND HIS MEETING WITH REV. SITHOLD, AT WHICH,
ACCORDING TO RANDAL, YOUNG "SOUGHT TO IMPRESS ON SITHOLE
THE IMPORTANCE OF 'RATIONAL TRANSITION' IN RHODESIA."

9. FROM JOHANNESBURG, BENJAMIN POGRUND WRITES IN THE
BOSTON GLOBE THAT DURING LAST FEW WEEKS, "A CLI-
MATE CLOSE TO HYSTERIA" HAS DEVELOPED ABOUT YOUNG'S
VISIT IN GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING NEWSPAPERS, WHICH HAVE
ACCUSED YOUNG OF SUFFERING FROM "FOOT IN MOUTH DISEASE"
AND HAVE "INSULTINGLY" TOLD HIM THAT
SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT AN "EXTENSION OF HIS BLACK
CONSTITUENCY IN AMERICA, AND THAT THE SOONER HE
REALIZES THIS THE BETTER." CONTRARY TO THE PERIOD
THREE YEARS AGO, POGRUND WRITES, WHEN DURING A VISIT
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AS A CONGRESSMAN, YOUNG'S COMMENTS ON THE "NEED FOR RACIAL CONCILIATION" AND HIS REJECTION OF "VIOLENCE AS ANSWER" TO APARTHEID "CAUSED DELIGHTED SURPRISE," YOUNG'S CURRENT TOUGH STATEMENTS AND HIS DEDICATION TO ENDING WHITE MINORITY RULE HAVE ENRAGED SOUTH AFRICA'S RULING WHITES. "THIS ANGER HAS OBSCURED YOUNG'S EFFORTS TO WORK FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE, TO PREEMPT THOSE PUSHING FOR INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AND A VIOLENT RESOLUTION OF THE RACIAL SITUATION."

10. JOHN BURNS, NYTIMES CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG IN A SCENE-SETTER ON MONDALE/VORSTER MEETING, WRITES THAT VORSTER WILL PROBABLY PLEDGE "COOPERATION IN INSTALLING BLACK GOVERNMENTS IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA," BUT WHEN THE TALKS TURN TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA, "THE PRIME MINISTER ISLIKELY TO TURN TO GRANITE." SOUTH AFRICA, BURNS WRITES, HAS "DISCOUNTED" CRITICIMS BY YOUNG, "TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN REPUDIATED OR MODERATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT." BUT SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS, AWARE OF YOUNG'S CLOSENESS TO CARTER, HAVE TAKEN SERIOUS HIS "COMMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PUSH PRETORIA TO ACCEPT A TIMETABLE FOR MAJORITY RULE BEFORE THE END OF MR. CARTER'S FIRST TERM." FM BOTHA HAS SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S GOAL OF MAJORITY RULE AMOUNTS TO A CALL FOR WHITE SELF-ANNIHILATION, AND BOTHA HAS SOUGHT TO REFUTE YOUNG'S CITING OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE WHITES IN THE U.S. SOUTH BY POINTING OUT THAT "AMERICAN SOUTHERNERS COULD YIELD THE VOTE TO BLACKS WITHOUT PUTTING THEIR SECURITY AT RISK, BECAUSE BLACKS WERE A MINORITY."

11. IN ANOTHER STORY, JOHN BURNS WRITING OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S 50-YEAR OLD PRINCIPAL BLACK NEWSPAPER, "THE WORLD," FROM "AN ENTERTAINING BUT POLITICALLY INEFFECTUAL TABLOID INTO A HARD-EDGED CHRONICLE OF LIFE UNDER APARTHEID," ATTRIBUTES THE CHANGE TO PERCY QOBOZA, WHO HAS BEEN EDITOR FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. QOBOZA, WHO IS ONE "OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CRITICS" OF APARTHEID
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CREDITS HIS POLITICAL AWAKENING, ACCORDING TO BURNS, TO THE PERIOD HE SPENT AS A HARVARD NIEMAN FELLOW, 1975-76. APART FROM AN EIGHT-HOUR ARREST LAST YEAR, QOBOZA HAS RETAINED HIS FREEDOM, "AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT PROBABLY OWES MUCH TO HIS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE AS A TOOL OF RACIAL CHANGE." QOBOZA, HOWEVER, WRITES BURNS, HAS ATTACKED GOVERNMENT FIGUES "IN TERMS

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THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE, COMING FROM A
BLACK JOURNALIST, ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO." "THE WORLD" HAS BECOME
ESSENTIAL READING FOR MANY WHITES, INCLUDING FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENTS. ALTHOUGH QOBOZA IS A "FIRM BELIEVER
IN NONVIOLENCE AND MULTIRACIALISM, TENETS THAT RUN COUNTER
TO THE RADICAL BLACK SOCIALISM" OF THE YOUNGER
MILITANTS IN SOWETO, HE HAS REMARKABLY BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN
THEIR RESPECT. A STRONG ADVOCATE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN BLACK
EDUCATION, QOBOZA, WRITES BURNS, HAS "UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED
BLACKS WHO BASE THEIR POLITICAL PRESCRIPTIONS ON RACE." RE-
PEATLY, QOBOZA HAS STRESSED "HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED
FOR GRADUAL CHANGE."
LEONARD

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Type: TE
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